

CALL OBJECTIVES

- The PM will provide a briefing on the blockades and discuss how governments can ensure a coordinated approach.
- Opportunity for Premier Ford to ask the Prime Minister what options are on the table for federal measures that the Prime Minister could implement and enforce.

ONTARIO'S RESPONSE TO THE BLOCKADES

- Cross-border trade employs hundreds of thousands of Ontarians, and those jobs feed millions of families – they are a **lifeline for our province and its economy**.
- The **free flow of trade is critical to our economy** and blockades will not be tolerated.
- That's why **Ontario has taken decisive** action, we've made it crystal clear **it is illegal and punishable to block and impede the movement** of goods, people and services along critical infrastructure.
 - It includes international border crossings, 400-series highways, airports, ports, bridges and railways.
 - Fines for noncompliance are severe, with a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and up to a year in prison.
- Last Friday (February 11), our government **declared a provincial state of emergency in response** to the blockade at the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor and protests in Ottawa.
 - The Ambassador Bridge alone sees over **\$700 million of two-way trade every single day**.
- We will also **provide additional authority to consider taking away** the personal and commercial licenses of anyone who doesn't comply with these orders.
- Later on Friday, an Ontario Superior Court judge granted an injunction to remove protesters blocking traffic to the Ambassador Bridge.
- We took **these necessary steps to support our police** as they do what it takes to restore law and order. Other actions our government has taken include:
 - We went after the money funding the illegal occupation. Last Thursday, we **won a court order to freeze the funds** from the GiveSendGo website for the convoy.
 - **The OPP has provided additional resources to Ottawa Police Services and Windsor Police Services** in response to recent requests for operational support.
 - On Wednesday, the Ontario Court of Justice confirmed that **fines will increase** from \$100 to \$1,000 per offense for idling, the noise by-law fine from \$490 to \$1000 and fines for encumbering a highway from \$350 to \$1000.
 - Last Monday, an Ontario superior court justice granted a 10-day injunction ordering truckers demonstrating in downtown Ottawa to stop honking.

CURRENT SITUATION IN WINDSOR/OTTAWA

Windsor

- **Hundreds of protesters were gradually cleared from the Ambassador Bridge on Sunday**, after a seven-day shutdown of our country's busiest commercial route.
 - **The protests eased by Sunday morning** after hundreds of police threatened to arrest the remaining demonstrators and tow the vehicles blocking the lanes.
 - Between 25 and 30 arrests were made and 12 vehicles were towed.
- **As of this morning, the Ambassador Bridge crossing is now open.**
- **I want to commend the Windsor Police, OPP, RCMP and frontline officers** who worked all weekend to bring a peaceful end to the blockade at the Ambassador Bridge.

Ottawa

- Ottawa's downtown core **has been under stress over the last two weeks due to the illegal occupation by protesters**. The demonstrations showed few signs of slowing down this past weekend.
- The City of Ottawa has indicated that the protesters have agreed to move out of residential areas in the next 24 hours, and limit their activities to an area around Parliament Hill.
 - **Mayor Watson said he would meet with protesters to discuss their concerns** if he had clear evidence of the 400 trucks moving by Monday noon.
- There has also been a rise in counter protests, with hundreds marching throughout Ottawa over the weekend.
- **I'll continue to support Mayor Watson and the Ottawa Police** in their efforts to bring the occupation there to an end.

[If Raised] FEDERAL EMERGENCY ACT

- Ontario's position is that before invoking the Act, there should be meaningful consultations with Premiers, that it be time-limited, and that it be regionally limited as needed.

QUESTIONS FOR PM

- I understand that **an announcement on border measures is coming this week**. Can you tell me what the plans are for that as well as other federal COVID mandates and restrictions?
- Last week, Prime Minister, you said that 'all options remain on the table' and I understand there were discussions over the weekend about **invoking special emergency powers to deal with the protests**. **What is the status of those discussions?**

Background: Provincial Emergency Order

Ontario government declared a provincial emergency under subsection 7.0.1 (3) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. The new measures make it illegal to:

- Impede access to or exit from critical infrastructure, including:
 - 400-series highways
 - Airports
 - Canals
 - Hospitals
 - Infrastructure for the supply of utilities, such as water, gas, sanitation and telecommunications
 - International and interprovincial bridges and crossings
 - Locations where COVID-19 vaccines are administered
 - Ports
 - Power generation and transmission facilities
 - Railways

The new measures also strengthen police powers to disperse crowds and remove vehicles, as well as suspend or cancel permits, licences (such as drivers' licences) and certificates under the *Highway Traffic Act*.